FOUR PENN CENTER
SUITE 200
1600 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2808
YELEPHONE 215.563.8400
PACSIMILE 215.665.3988
WWW.GCELAW.COM

ERIC M. HOCKY
DIRECT DIAL 215.320.3720
emhocky@ggelaw.com



EI-480 166

February 5, 2004

Hon. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board Mercury Building, #711 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re:

Docket No. AB-400 (Sub-No. 3X) Seminole Gulf Railway, L.P. -

Abandonment Exemption - in Sarasota County, Florida

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am sending this letter to provide the additional information requested by the Section of Environmental Analysis. An original and ten copies of this letter are being provided so that it can be filed of record in this proceeding. Please time stamp the extra copy of this letter to indicate receipt, and return it to me in the stamped self-addressed envelope provided for your convenience.

Additional information on traffic history: As noted in the Petition for Exemption, no traffic moved over the line segment subject to abandonment (the "Line") during 2003 or during the last nine months of 2002 (the last car was delivered to a shipper via the Line on March 14, 2002). During the first three months of 2002, Seminole Gulf Railway, L.P. ("SGLR") delivered 20 cars of plywood and lumber to a single customer (Kimai Lumber) at a team track located on the Line, where the freight was transloaded to truck. The customer now receives freight cars from SGLR at a team track location on a different line segment. The traffic continues to be transloaded to truck. The shift of this traffic has not resulted in any increase in truck traffic.

There were only three other customers that have received traffic via the line in the last several years, but none have received any cars since May 2001. These customers were Sheckler Produce (one carload in 2001 delivered via team track in March 2001; has received some deliveries at another SGLR team track on a different line); Ferrelgas of Sarasota (last car was delivered at the end of 2000); and King Plastic Corporation (21 cars through May 2001 delivered via team track; opened a new plant at a different location and now receives deliveries from SGLR at Fort Ogden on a different line segment).

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All four of the customers identified above were served with copies of the Petition for Exemption. None have filed any comments or response.

Please let me know if any additional information is required.

Respectfully,

ERIC M. HOCKY

cc: Ken Blodgett (via fax - 202-565-9000) Sarasota Board of County Commissioners

Sarasota County Public Works - Transportation Planning

Gordon H. Fay (SGLR)

William P. Coffing, Jr. (CSXT)

John Garrison (The Trust for Public Land)